GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:868
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
IMPORT OF COPRA AND COCONUT
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;R.L. JALAPPA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of copra, dessicated copra, coconut and their products imported into the country during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) the countries from which these imports were made;

(c) the reasons for importing these items;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the import of these products has affected the coconut growers adversely as the prices of coconut and copra have fallen very sharply;

(e) whether the present Exim Policy relating to coconut and its product is not favourable for coconut growers;

(f) whether there is a demand to put a ban on import of copra, coconut and their products; and

(g) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) : Desiccated coconut is classified under Exim Code No.08011100, fresh coconut under Exim Code No.08011901, dried coconut under Exim Code No.08011902, Copra under Exim Code No.12030000, Crude coconut (copra) oil under Exim Code No.15131100 and other coconut (copra) oil under Exim Code No.15131900 of ITC (HS) classification of export and import items.The import figures of these items are given in the annexure attached to this reply.

(b) : The imports were made mainly from the countries viz. Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ghana, Nepal, Indonesia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Philippines.

(c) to (g) : Import of desiccated, fresh and dried coconut is free while that of copra and coconut (copra) oil is allowed under State trading Regime to be operated by State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation (HVOC) Representations have been received arguing for restricting the import of these items fearing adverse impact on the domestic producers..

As can be seen, the present level of imports may not adversely affect the domestic producers. However in response to the representations, the Government has increased the import duty on coconut and copra from 35% to 70% and that on coconut oil from 45% to 75% in the budget this year, to provide protection to the domestic producers.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.868 FOR ANSWER ON 27.7.2001 REGARDING IMPORT OF COPRA AND COCONUT:

IMPORT OF COPRA, DESICCATED COPRA & COCONUT PRODUCT

Qty. in Tons

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (upto Feb.)
Qty.	Qty.	Qty.

Coconut Desiccated (08011100)	-	1	19
Fresh Coconut (08011901)	-	-	-
Coconut Dried (08011902)	-	18	40
Copra (12030000)	-	-	-
Coconut (Copra) Crude Oil and fractions (15131100)	-	184	18
Coconut (copra) refined oil and fractions (15131900)	1373	3754	5539

- NIL